

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is submitted simultaneous with the filing of a Rule 53(b) divisional of pending Application Serial No. 09/731,484, filed December 8, 2000, and with respect to which a Notice of Allowance and Fee Due issued on October 21, 2003. The application is directed to claims restricted and withdrawn from examination by the Examiner during prosecution of the parent application.

The specification is amended to add a related applications section referencing the parent application, on which priority is claimed.

The abstract is amended to better reflect the invention to which this application is directed.

As originally filed, the parent '484 application (a copy of which is filed herewith) included claims 1-16. Claims 1-10, 14 and 16 are canceled herein. Claim 15 is amended to avoid multiple dependency. Claim 17 is added to recite, in a dependency of claim 12, the limitations recited in claim 15.

Accordingly, claims 11-13, 15 (as amended herein) and 17 (as added herein) are pending in this application.

No new matter is added by this preliminary amendment.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed local telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any remaining issues and further to expedite passage of the application to issue, if any further comments, questions or suggestions arise in connection with the application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 01-2135 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alfred A. Stadnicki', with a stylized, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

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